CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Weekly Bulletin

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Public Health Legislation at Washington.

The House of Representatives recently passed two measures that are of importance from a public health standpoint. One is the Winslow bill which prohibits the importation and shipment in interstate commerce of shaving and lather brushes containing horse hair. The purpose of this measure is to prevent the spread of anthrax. The United States Public Health Service and several of the state departments of health have found that many cases of anthrax, during the past few years, could be traced to the use of horse hair shaving brushes. The Winslow bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce. The other bill passed by the House of Representatives is the Voigt bill which forbids the shipment in interstate commerce of compounds of skimmed milk and vegetable oil, made to resemble whole evaporated milk. Restrictive or prohibitive legislation against compounds of this sort has been enacted in eleven of the states. The Senate Committee on Agriculture has been holding hearings on this bill, which is now up for final consideration in the Senate.

Reduce Death Rate One-Third in Next Ten Years.

In his book "Public Health and Insurance," Sir Arthur Newsholm says, "With increased knowledge we know that a larger proportion of diseases are preventable than was formerly supposed. It will be easy, within the next ten years, to reduce the death rate by one-third of its present amount, given systematic and adequate action on the part of public health authorities and an effective educational propaganda among the general public. More effective still, an even larger proportion of mankind's total illness can be avoided, and life on a higher plane of health secured, as well as life prolonged to its normal limit."

More Funds Needed for Leper Care.

The Federal Leprosarium at Carrville, Louisiana, is inadequate for the care of all lepers who should be in this institution. The California State Board of Health was largely instrumental in the establishment of this leprosarium and is interested in its maintenance and extension in order that the leprosy problem in California and in the other states may be permanently solved. President Harding recently asked Congress that sufficient money be appropriated for the enlargement of the Carrville institution and Representative Elliott of Indiana and Senator Ramsdell of Louisiana have introduced bills in the two houses providing for the appropriation of $650,000 to be used for preventing the spread of leprosy and to provide care and treatment for all persons suffering from this disease.

Many to Live Short Lives or Few to Live Long Lives?

Ever since the Malthusian theory of population was propounded in 1800 someone has frequently predicted that it is only a question of time before the food supply of the earth will be inadequate to feed the world's population. Luther Burbank has been recently credited with the statement that agriculture has been developed to the highest possible degree and that further development in the production of greater food supplies can not be expected unless new soil fertilizers can be developed. Questions involving population and the food supply are of importance and the trend of birth and death rates have great bearing in the consideration of these questions. Vital statistics constitute an essential factor in the determination of these theories. G. H. Knibbs, Commonwealth Statistician for Australia, several years ago prepared a very comprehensive monograph on the mathematical theory of population, of its character and fluctuation and of the factors which influence them. In this technical statistical work he raises the question as to whether the world should be populated with large numbers of human beings who shall live short lives, or whether the world should be populated with relatively few human beings who are able to live long lives. There is material for thought in this report and the following quotations are worthy of close reading and careful consideration:

"1. **The larger aim of population statistic.** * * * The limits of human expansion are much nearer than popular opinion imagines; the difficulty of future food supplies will soon be of the gravest character; the exhaustion of sources of energy necessary for any notable increase of population or advance in the standards of living, or both combined, is perilously near. Within periods of time, insignificant compared with geologic ages, the multiplying force of living things, man included, must receive a tremendous check. The present rate of increase in the world's population can not continue for four centuries, and the extraordinary increase in the standard of living which has characterized the last few decades must quickly be brought to a standstill, or be determined by the destructive forces of human extravagance. Very soon world-politic will have to face the question whether it is better that there should be larger numbers and more modest living, or fewer numbers and lavish living; whether world-morality should aim at the enjoyment of life by a great multitude, or aim at the restriction of life-experience to a few, that they may live in relative opulence. The statistician of the future will utilize all discovery of the mysterious play, and no less cryptic, limitation of life-force to make prediction sure. Given coordinated international effort, there would be no difficulty in so directing future statistical technique that all countries and all analysts could add their quota in a form suitable for the wider study of the drift of mankind in the more important relations of civic, national, and international life.

"In earlier days monarchs utilized statistics as a basis for judging the probability of success in operations of war and plunder. That use has not disappeared, but the plexus of relations, which, through the fructifying power of science, the modern world has seen established, particularly in the realms of industry and commerce, has shown a growing measure of economic solidarity in the affairs of mankind. The modern world responds to everything that profoundly touches any one nation. By the conditions of modern life mankind tends to be welded into a unit. By the magic of invention, humanity has been quickened; distance—if not annihilated—has been immensely shortened; life has been enriched in the potentialities of material and psychical enjoyment, and be it said also in the plane of its possible intellectual and moral effort. The destiny of mankind will therefore be the supreme problem of those statisticians of the future, who have an adequate outlook on that science and art with which it is their privilege to concern themselves. For the craftsman with acute and microscopic vision there are a multitude of analyses to be made; for one with the capacity for reaching wide generalisations there is no end of larger work, while for him who is happily able to see both the trees *and* the forest of the statistical landscape, there is the most far-reaching task of all, the creation of a statistical world-picture, which shall reveal the secrets of man's place in the many-sided world of social-economics, using that word in its fullest and most ideal sense.

"2. **The impossibility of any long-continued increase of population at the present rate.**—An increase of pop-

ulation at the rate of 1 per cent per annum is often regarded as unduly slow; the increase for the United States between 1790 and 1860 was nearly 3 per cent per annum, a rate which has recently also been attained in Australia. That this rate can not possibly last even five centuries is a fact, however, that, though immensely important, is not realized.

"It has been contended in reply to Malthus that experience has shown that food-production will advance even more rapidly than the growth of population. It can do so for only a very limited time. The false inference has been drawn from this fact that therefore almost any population can be provided for. The point demands attention, for the argument is a plausible one. Nothwithstanding this it is invalid, as can easily be shown.

* * *

"4. **The trend of destiny.**—To the extent man is ignorant, he is both the puppet of Fortune, and the victim of Desire. Anyone who has seriously reflected upon the facts of the last ten decades must realize that, within the next ten, tremendous problems will arise for solution and these will touch fundamentally the following matters, viz:

(i) The multiplying power of the human race;

(ii) The organic constitution of nature and the means at human disposal for avoiding the incidence of its unfavorable aspects; i.e., eugenics in its wider sense;

(iii) The enhancing of the productivity of nature, and the limits of its exploitation;

(iv) The mechanism of the social organism, and the scheme of its control;

(v) Internationalism and the solidarity of humanity.

"For the adequate study of these matters, not only will the mere technique of the collection and analysis of statistic require to be much advanced, but the popular opinion as to the value of the effort will also have to progress. Given, however, an intelligent public opinion, as to the utility of statistical inquires, there would be some ground for hope that the great questions, the analysis of which would throw light upon human destiny, could be properly attacked. It is for educational departments, worthy of the name, to create such opinion by the mechanism of their systems, in order that each human being should be sufficiently interested to cordially cooperate, by accurately furnishing the necessary data in the taking of a census of population or wealth. Census taking is a costly operation, but it is the foundation of all branches of statistic that have a direct human interest. Its value and the facility of using it would be immensely increased if it were meticulously accurate. The importance of technique and of precision, matters apparently of little moment, can be rightly estimated only when the ultimate aim of all statistical inquiry is realized to be "the study of man's destiny" as the denizen of a world of limitations."

"Man-Made" Malaria.

The work of eradicating malaria has been made doubly hard by the continual creation of new mosquito-breeding spots, by the intentional or unintentional impounding of water in the course of highway, irrigation or railway construction. The United States Public Health Service says that malaria, which finds its source in such impounding of water, can be termed "man-made malaria." The Service has determined recently that probably three-fourths of the malaria in a district in Eastern Virginia came from such artificial pools and swamps.

A great responsibility rests upon contractors who are building highways and irrigation systems in malarial districts. Good roads are essential but they should not be built at the expense of the health of the residents of any community. The specifications for the construction of federal highways in the south, require that the culverts shall be so placed that they will completely drain all wet areas above the culvert entrance, and that all borrow pits or excavations made along the roadways shall be filled or properly drained. More mosquitoes and more malaria are sure to follow carelessness in construction work carried on in malarial districts.

In France, before the war, there were forty dispensaries. Now there are four hundred and thirty-nine.—Ambassador Jusserand.

The increase of later life diseases as a factor in the death rate, is of course, inevitable, if we prolong the average age of the human life.—Livingston Farrand.

Start the child right in infancy, particularly the one who has been exposed to tuberculosis, and follow him right through to college.—W. R. P. Emerson, M.D.

MORBIDITY.

Smallpox.

Smallpox is on the decrease again. Only 17 cases were reported last week, distributed as follows: Alameda County 2, Bakersfield 2, Livermore 3, Oakland 2, Sacramento 2, San Jose 2, Stockton 3 and Wheatland 1.

Typhoid Fever.

Twenty-six cases of typhoid fever were reported last week. They are distributed as follows: Auburn 2, Berkeley 1, Blythe 2, Colton 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles County 1, Madera County 1, Oakland 3, Porterville 1, Sacramento 6, San Bernardino County 2, San Joaquin County 2, Stockton 1, Yolo County 1, Yreka 1.

Epidemic Encephalitis.

One case of epidemic encephalitis was reported from San Francisco.

Poliomyelitis.

One case of poliomyelitis was reported from Stockton last week.

Leprosy.

San Francisco reported one case of leprosy last week.

Plague.

One fatal case of plague occurred last week in Santa Cruz County. As far as can be determined the source of infection was from rats.

LIST OF DISEASES REPORTABLE BY LAW.

ANTHRAX
BERI-BERI
BOTULISM
CEREBROSPINAL MENINGITIS (Epidemic)
CHICKENPOX
CHOLERA, ASIATIC
DENGUE
DIPHTHERIA
DYSENTERY
ENCEPHALITIS (Epidemic)
ERYSIPELAS
FLUKES
FOOD POISONING
GERMAN MEASLES
GLANDERS
GONOCOCCUS INFECTION*
HOOKWORM
INFLUENZA
INFECTIOUS JAUNDICE
LEPROSY
MALARIA
MEASLES
MUMPS
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM
PARATYPHOID FEVER
PELLAGRA
PLAGUE
PNEUMONIA
POLIOMYELITIS
RABIES
ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED (or Tick) FEVER
SCARLET FEVER
SMALLPOX
SYPHILIS*
TETANUS
TRACHOMA
TUBERCULOSIS
TYPHOID FEVER
TYPHUS FEVER
WHOOPING COUGH
YELLOW FEVER

*Reported by office number. Name and address not required.

QUARANTINABLE DISEASES.

CEREBROSPINAL MENINGITIS (Epidemic)
CHOLERA, ASIATIC
DIPHTHERIA
ENCEPHALITIS (Epidemic)
LEPROSY
PLAGUE
POLIOMYELITIS
SCARLET FEVER
SMALLPOX
TYPHOID FEVER
TYPHUS FEVER
YELLOW FEVER

Care for the health of the people is the secret of national efficiency.—David Lloyd George.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORT.

Disease	1922 Week ending June 24	July 1	July 8	Reports for week ending July 15 received by July 18	1921 Week ending June 25	July 2	July 9	Reports for week ending July 16 received by July 20
Anthrax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	3	2	2	0	2	6	5	4
Chickenpox	133	82	56	26	105	95	59	68
Diphtheria	150	153	99	84	109	105	99	113
Dysentery (Bacillary)	3	4	6	0	1	8	1	4
Epidemic Encephalitis	1	3	4	1	0	2	1	5
Gonorrhoea	79	58	106	44	60	56	75	111
Influenza	3	7	5	9	10	14	5	14
Leprosy	0	1	1	0	0	3	1	0
Malaria	3	1	2	1	9	7	3	5
Measles	49	20	13	14	197	169	99	98
Mumps	60	18	19	10	40	69	37	50
Plague	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	56	53	85	21	40	33	41	87
Poliomyelitis	1	5	0	1	5	2	3	3
Scarlet Fever	90	67	43	31	91	66	52	51
Smallpox	26	22	37	17	74	69	59	53
Syphilis	97	68	80	36	78	46	68	50
Tuberculosis	224	135	234	75	101	168	112	148
Typhoid Fever	23	20	31	26	20	23	24	23
Whooping Cough	117	93	120	39	78	58	53	73
	1118	812	943	436	1020	1000	797	960

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